

CLAIMS

What is claimed is:

1. A method of controlling a dispenser having a driving part discharging objects, and a switching part controlling the driving part to operate and stop, comprising:
 - sensing whether the switching part is turned on or off; and
 - controlling the driving part to operate after a lapse of a predetermined delay time since the switching part is turned on.
2. The method according to claim 1, further comprising controlling the driving part to stop as soon as the switching part is turned off.
3. The method according to claim 2, wherein the method further comprises opening a discharging hole when the switching part is turned on, and closing the discharging hole after a lapse of a predetermined operating time since the switching part is turned off.
4. The method according to claim 3, further comprising controlling the driving part to operate as soon as the switching part is turned on again before a predetermined restart time passes since the switching part is turned off.
5. The method according to claim 4, wherein the predetermined restart time is shorter than the predetermined operating time.
6. The method according to claim 3, wherein the lapse of the predetermined operating time is determined after a last turning off of the switching part, in response to the switching part being turned on again during the predetermined operating time.
7. The method according to claim 1, further comprising controlling the driving part to not operate in response to the switching part being turned off before the lapse of the predetermined delay time.
8. A dispenser to discharge objects, comprising:
 - a driving part discharging the objects;
 - a switching part; and

a controller controlling the driving part to operate after a lapse of a predetermined delay time since the switching part is turned on.

9. The dispenser according to claim 8, wherein the controller controls the driving part to stop as soon as the switching part is turned off.

10. The dispenser according to claim 9, further comprising:
a discharging lever turning the switching part on/off;
a discharging shutter opening a discharging hole through which the objects are discharged, wherein the opening of the discharging shutter is coupled with the discharging lever turning on the switching part; and
a solenoid valve releasing the discharging shutter from an opened state so as to make the discharging shutter cover the discharging hole.

11. The dispenser according to claim 10, wherein the switching part is turned on when the discharging lever is moved from an original position, and turned off when the discharging lever begins moving back to the original position.

12. The dispenser according to claim 11, wherein the switching part is turned on at an earlier part of the movement of the discharging lever, and the discharging shutter is opened at a later part of the movement of the discharging lever.

13. The dispenser according to claim 10, wherein the controller controls the solenoid valve to release the discharging shutter from the opened state after a lapse of a predetermined operating time since the switching part is turned off.

14. The dispenser according to claim 13, wherein the controller determines the lapse of the predetermined operating time after a last turning off of the switching part, in response to the switching part being turned on again during the predetermined operating time.

15. The dispenser according to claim 13, wherein the controller controls the driving part to operate as soon as the switching part is turned on again before a predetermined restart time passes since the switching part is turned off.

16. The dispenser according to claim 15, wherein the predetermined restart time is shorter than the predetermined operating time.
17. The dispenser according to claim 10, wherein the driving part is a motor.
18. The dispenser according to claim 17, wherein the controller further comprises:
 - a motor relay operating the motor after the predetermined delay time;
 - a valve relay operating the solenoid valve; and
 - a microprocessor controlling the motor relay and valve relay, and determining when the switching part is turned on/off.
19. The dispenser according to claim 8, wherein the controller controls the driving part not to operate in response to the switching part being turned off before the lapse of the predetermined delay time.
20. The dispenser according to claim 8, wherein the driving part is a reciprocating piston.
21. A refrigerator comprising:
 - a main cabinet comprising at least one storage compartment having a front opening;
 - a door opening and closing the front opening of the storage compartment; and
 - a dispenser to discharge objects, the dispenser comprising:
 - a driving part discharging objects,
 - a switching part, and
 - a controller controlling the driving part to operate after a lapse of a predetermined delay time since the switching part is turned on.
22. The refrigerator according to claim 21, wherein the controller controls the driving part to stop as soon as the switching part is turned off.
23. The refrigerator according to claim 21, further comprising:
 - a discharging lever turning the switching part on/off;

a discharging shutter opening a discharging hole through which the objects are discharged, wherein the opening of the discharging shutter is coupled with the discharging lever turning on the switching part; and

a solenoid valve releasing the discharging shutter from an opened state so as to make the discharging shutter cover the discharging hole.

24. An object discharging system to discharge objects, the system comprising:

a driving part discharging the objects;

a switching part; and

a controller controlling the driving part according to predetermined time periods initiated by the switching part.